

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 OES-06 PRS-01 SP-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9362

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 16159

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FM BOMBAY NOV 0474 FOR YOUR INFO

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 2815

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH IN

SUBJ: CHAIRMAN SETHNA'S REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD NUCLEAR POLICY
STATEMENT

REF: BOMBAY 2787

1. EARLY ON NOV 3, MY FIRST DAY BACK IN BOMBAY AFTER A FOUR-DAY
FIELD TRIP, IAEC CHAIRMAN SETHNA TELEPHONED TO THANK ME FOR PROMPT
TRANSMITTAL OF PRESIDENT FORD'S NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT. SETHNA
SAID HE WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS THIS STATEMENT IN DETAIL WITH ME
BECAUSE IT OBVIOUSLY WOULD AFFECT INDO-US NUCLEAR COOPERATION.
WITHOUT SPECIFYING THEM, SETHNA NOTED THAT SEVERAL POINTS IN THE
MESSAGE WERE OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO HIM BECAUSE THEIR APPLICABILITY
TO OUR BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IS NOT CLEAR. HE THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE BEST TO AWAIT A DETAILED EXAMINATION UNTIL THE ELECTION
RESULTS WERE IN. ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT EXPLICIT IN HIS COMMENTS, HE
SEEMED RELIEVED THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S POLICY STATEMENT WAS
SUFFICIENTLY GENERAL SO THAT ITS IMPACT ON INDO-US NUCLEAR
COOPERATION IS NOT ALTOGETHER CLEAR. HE CLEARLY WAS GLAD THAT NONE
OF PRESIDENT FORD'S SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGE SEEMED TO SINGLE OUT
INDIA. HE SEEMED TO ACCEPT THE NEW POLICY STATEMENT AS A REASON-
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ABLE CONSEQUENCE OF THE GROWING CONCERN IN THE US OVER NUCLEAR

PROLIFERATION IN THIS ELECTION YEAR.

2. LATER IN THE DAY, AFTER THE CARTER VICTORY STATEMENT, SETHNA CALLED AGAIN TO ASK WHETHER THE ELECTION MARGIN WAS SUFFICIENTLY LARGE TO INSURE THAT IT WOULD HOLD UP. WHEN I OFFERED AN AFFIRMATIVE OPINION, HE SAID, THEN IT LOOKS AS IF WE WOULD HAVE TO START ALL OVER AGAIN FROM SQUARE ONE IN REVIEWING INDO-US CO-OPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD. I NOTED THAT COOPERATIVE MEASURES ALREADY TAKEN ON SAFEGUARDING AND SECURITY OF NUCLEAR WASTE AS WELL AS OUR CURRENT EXAMINATION OF POSSIBILITIES FOR ITS RETURN TO THE US SEEMED TO BE DIRECTLY IN LINE WITH SOME OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S PROPOSALS. I SUGGESTED THAT DURING COMING MONTHS THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE GOOD REASON TO CONTINUE THIS PROCESS OF CONSULTATION.

COURTNEY
UNQTE SAXBE

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